

## **AGENDA**

### **CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013  
9:00 AM**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut  
Third Floor – Room “C”**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

**I. MINUTES**

Review and approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2013 meeting.

**II. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

Investigations Update

*Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH*

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

Continuing Education – Bill No. 6644

Definition of Surgery – Bill No. 1038

Walmart – Interpretation of Declaratory ruling

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**V. OFFICE OF LICENSURE REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE**

Lance Alpert, OD – Petition No. 2011-103

*Presentation of Consent Order – Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH*

**VI. ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

#### **ADJOURN**

*The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.*

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **March 20, 2013** at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in the third floor hearing room.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman – *via telephone*  
Lawrence Lefland, OD – *via telephone*  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD – *via telephone*  
Regina A. Strand, OD – *via telephone*

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes from the November 28, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**II. Department of Public Health Updates**

Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported there are two cases involving optometrists being investigated by the DPH. Two additional cases have been referred to the Department's Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance for further review. One case has been dismissed since the last meeting.

**III. Old Business**

Continuing Education

Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison reported that House Bill 6644 proposes the addition of language regarding continuing education to sections 20-128a and 20-132a of the Optometry Practice Act. A copy of the bill will be emailed to the Board.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Controlled Substance Registration – Any optometrists having questions about their Connecticut Controlled Substance registration should contact the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.

2. Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents

Dr. Blondin has communicated with an Optometrist who wishes to use Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents.

Pursuant to Section 20-127(c), Connecticut General Statutes, optometrists who were first licensed in Connecticut prior to January 1, 1991, are permitted to acquire, administer, dispense and prescribe TPAs only after the optometrist has successfully completed: A course conducted by an accredited optometric or medical school which included a minimum of 96 classroom hours and 14 clinical hours in the didactic and clinical use of therapeutic ocular agents which included the successful completion of an examination administered by the duly accredited school or college of optometry or medical school conducting the course. Experience such as residency training or continuing education can not be substituted for the required coursework.

Dr. Blondin will inform the individual to contact the DPH licensing office with any questions.

3. **Bill No. 1038 – An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery**

The Board discussed how and if this proposed bill would impact the practice of Optometry. Dr. Pavano made a motion, seconded by Dr. Strand to the adopt the following as authored by Dr. Lefland.

The Board wishes to go on record in opposition to Senate Bill 1038, "An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery".

1. Passage of the bill will rescind the ability of optometrists to perform a number of treatments that would suddenly be deemed to be "surgical" in nature.
2. Optometrists are well trained to remove foreign bodies from the eye as well as displace tissue through punctal plugs. These procedures have been performed thousands of times by Connecticut optometrists with no documented adverse events or complaints to this Board.
3. This bill would automatically change the Scope of Practice for a number of medical professions, including optometry. This bill should be the subject of a Scope of Practice Review Committee before it is entertained in the legislature.
4. There is no compelling threat to the public's health nor any need or reason to pass this legislation.
5. With federal passage of "The Affordable Care Act", more patients with health care benefits will need treatment. Limiting these procedures to only ophthalmology will result in patients having fewer choices of practitioners and longer waiting times for appropriate care.

**V. Additional Items**

The Board would like an update from Jennifer Filippone at the May 15, 2013 meeting concerning an interpretation of whether Wal-Mart can allow its employees to work for the independent Optometrists in Wal-Mart Stores.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Strand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists